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Congressman Akin Decries Supreme Court Decision Ruling Against Child Online Protection Act

Commenting on today's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down the Child Online Protection Act (COPA), U.S. Rep. Todd Akin (R-MO) said that the Court is abrogating what the Congressman called "a fundamental duty of civil government: The protection of the defenseless, who in this case are America's children."

The Child Online Protection Act, signed into law by President Clinton in 1998, was designed to shield children from online pornography. Akin joined with 12 other Members of Congress in a friend-of-the-court brief filed by the American Center for Law and Justice in asking the Supreme Court to uphold COPA.

"Freedom of speech does not mean that children should have access to filth. Sadly, the Supreme Court disagrees," Akin said. "It is unfortunate that by a one-vote majority, the Supreme Court chose the sordid interests of those who produce and view internet pornography over the well-being of America's children. Nothing in the First Amendment entitles the type of material covered by the Child Online Protection Act constitutional protection.

"One year ago, the Court upheld the constitutionality of the Children's Internet Protection Act, which guards against exposing our children to pornography in the nation's libraries. Why the Court believes our children should be less safe in their own homes is a mystery to me, as I'm sure it is to parents across the country."